

Remarks

Claims 1-32 were pending prior to this amendment. Claims 1-7, 12-23, and 28-32 are rejected. Claims 8-11 and 24-27 are objected to, but contain allowable subject matter. Claims 2, 4, 8, 18, 20, and 24 are cancelled by this amendment. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 9-11, 17, 19, 21-22, and 25-27 are amended by this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-17, 19, 21-23, and 25-32.

Claims 1-7, 12-23, and 28-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0109951 (Hsiung). The recent office action indicated that claims 8 and 24 were allowable. The allowable subject matter of claims 8 and 24 and their intervening subject matter of claims 2 and 18 have been respectively incorporated into independent claims 1 and 17. Thus, claims 1 and 17 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that there are numerous additional reasons in support of patentability, but that such reasons are moot in light of the above remarks and are omitted in the interests of brevity. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-17, 19, 21-23, and 25-32.



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